



NEWSLETTER



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JUNE 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 PENTECOST SUNDAY	13 MEETING ROCKDALE 7:00 P.M.	14	15	16	17	18 FALLOUT CALDWELL CONFIRMATION
19 MOST HOLY TRINITY FATHER'S DAY	20	21	22	23	24 THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	25
26 MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	27	28	29	30		

NEWS

Please keep Ike Korenek in your prayers as he undergoes treatment for his illness. Also Vance McManus after his recent hospitalization. Both are past Faithful Navigators of our Assembly.

Our next meeting will be in Rockdale on June 13, with the meal at 7:00 P.M.

We will fall out for Confirmation at St. Mary's in Caldwell on June 18. The Bishop will be there to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at the 6:00 P.M. Mass.

Our deepest sympathy to the parishioners of St. Joseph's Parish in Rockdale on the loss of their pastor, Father Anselm, last month. It was a shock to hear of his untimely death. He was a most valuable asset to St. Joseph's, and will be sorely missed. He was a Knight of Columbus, and was a member of the 4th Degree in the Temple Assembly.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

What an inspiring sight to see the Knights of Columbus of the Rockdale Council in action following the death of their pastor. They took on the task of making this sad occasion into a wonderful tribute to Father Anselm. Their many hours of preparation for the funeral service could be seen in how organized the entire event was, and what attention was given to every detail, to make sure that everything was done as well as it could be done. They moved a large portion of the interior of the church, including the Altar, to the hall, for the Mass. The hall had to be set up for the service like a church, and then converted back to accommodate the people for the lunch that had been prepared by the Knights for the people attending. There was reserved parking for the many priests who attended, and also for the 4th degree Knights who attended the funeral. Our sincere thanks to all the Knights from our Assembly and the other Assemblies, who provided the Honor Guard for both the wake service and the funeral. A special thanks go to Phil Leibowitz, District Master, and past District Masters, Joe Moreno and Joe LaBabera, for their attendance.

Our family will be traveling to southern Utah at the time of our next meeting, and will not be back for the fallout on June 18. We are looking forward to seeing that beautiful area, and sharing it with our three youngest children.

Bishops to Vote on Physician-Assisted Suicide Document at Seattle Meeting; Statement Says Practice Does Not Advance Compassion, Choices

WASHINGTON (June 1, 2011)—The U.S. bishops will debate and vote on a document on physician-assisted suicide at their Spring General Assembly, June 15-17, in Seattle. The document, *To Live Each Day with Dignity*, will be the first statement on assisted suicide by the full body of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

"After years of relative inaction following legalization of physician-assisted suicide in Oregon in 1994, the assisted suicide movement has shown a strong resurgence in activity," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities. "This renewed effort has led to the passage of an Oregon-style law in Washington by popular referendum in November 2008, a state supreme court decision essentially declaring that assisted suicide is not against public policy in Montana, and concerted efforts to pass legislation in several New England and Western states. The Church needs to respond in a timely and visible way to this renewed challenge, which will surely be pursued in a number of states in the years to come."

The draft statement speaks of the hardships and fears of patients facing terminal illness and the importance of life-affirming palliative care. It cites the Church's concern for those who are tempted to commit suicide, its opposition to physician-assisted suicide, and the consistency of this stance with the principle of equal and inherent human rights and the ethical principles of the medical profession.

Countering two claims of the assisted suicide movement, that its agenda affirms patients' "choices" and expresses "compassion" for their suffering, the statement says physician-assisted suicide does not promote compassion because its focus is not on eliminating suffering, but on eliminating the patient. True compassion, it states, dedicates itself to meeting patients' needs and presupposes a commitment to their equal worth. The statement says that "compassion" that is not rooted in such respect inevitably finds more and more people whose suffering is considered serious enough for assisted death, such as those with chronic illness and disabilities.

According to the statement, the practice also undermines patients' freedom by putting pressure on them, once society has officially declared the suicides of certain people to be good and acceptable while working to prevent the suicides of others. Undermining the value of some people's lives will undermine respect for their freedom as well, the statement says, citing legal systems such as the Netherlands, where voluntary assisted suicide has led to involuntary euthanasia.

The statement argues that assisted suicide is not an addition to palliative care, but a poor substitute that can ultimately become an excuse for denying better medical care to seriously ill people, including those who never considered suicide an option. It concludes by advancing what Pope John Paul II called "the way of love and true mercy," and calls on Catholics to work with others to uphold the right of each person to live with dignity.

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